

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 7, 10-14, 16 and 17 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 9, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurtz et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,725,825). These claims have been cancelled, thereby rendering their rejection moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 2, 3, 7, 10-14, 16, and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant(s) have amended claims 2, 7, 10, and 16 to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 2, 7, 10, and 16. Therefore, claims 2, 3, 7, 10-14, 16, and 17 should now be in condition for allowance.

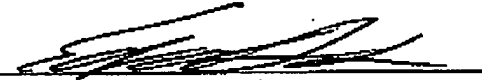
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt

and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 944-6526.

Respectfully submitted,

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